

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 6/5/2006

(Todd Lanigan and Bria Radtke)

Topics covered this month:

Insects: Eastern tent caterpillar **Diseases:** Eastern/ pine-pine gall rusts
Treehoppers and aphids Leaf and needle diseases
Gypsy moth

Other: Firewood ban on state properties

Eastern tent caterpillar- populations seem to be high all over the region. Caterpillars are larger in the southern part of the region than they are in the northern part. Eastern tent caterpillar prefers to feed on wild cherry, crabapple and apple trees, but will also feed on ash, birch, willow, witch-hazel, maple, oak, aspen, peach and plum trees.

Treehoppers and aphids- based on field observations, this appears to be a good year for both treehoppers and aphids. Treehoppers and aphids both have piercing/sucking mouthparts they use to suck out plant juices. If you see a lot of ants crawling up and down on trees and shrubs, there are probably aphids present. The ants will protect aphids from predators. The ants like the honeydew (sugar water) that aphids secrete and will actually milk the aphids like cows to get the honeydew.

Eastern tent caterpillar



Treehopper



Aphids feeding



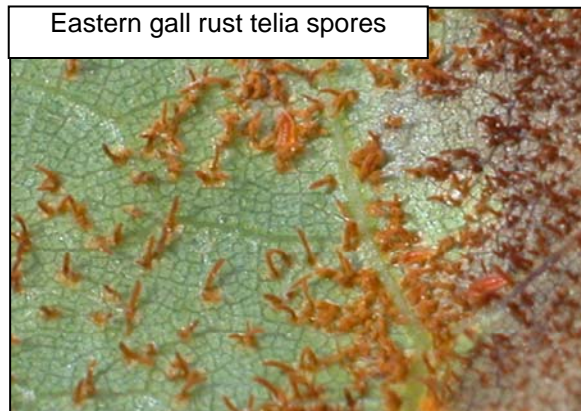
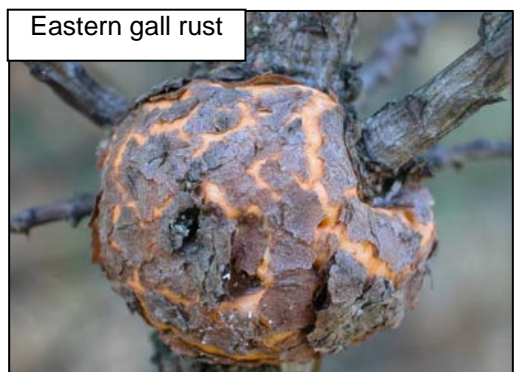
If the population of both the treehoppers and aphids remain high, you may get a lot of calls concerning both sap and/or honeydew on objects underneath trees and the formation of black sooty mold. Sooty mold will grow on tree sap as well as on the honeydew that aphids secrete.

Sooty mold growing on honeydew from aphids



Gypsy moth- caterpillars are busy feeding throughout the state. In southern WI, some caterpillars are already halfway through their development (4th instar). If the weather continues to be warm and dry we can expect the gypsy moth population to grow this year. So far I have received no complaints from the westcentral region. Please give homeowners my number 715-831-3278, or 1-800-642-MOTH to call if they have questions or concerns. The Slow-the-Spread program, headed by DATCP, should be completed with their aerial insecticide treatments in the northern part of the state by the end of this week. They'll begin doing pheromone flake applications in late June-early July, when the moths begin flying. See gypsymoth.wi.gov for treatment locations.

Eastern/ pine-pine gall rusts- galls on jack and Scotch pines are reaching or just past peak spore production, and may be bright orange with spores. Eastern gall rust produces single round galls on the pines and uses oaks as an alternate host. The oak leaves will produce telia spores on the underside of the leaves later in the year, which in turn infect jack and Scotch pines again. Pine-pine gall rust (or Western gall rust) will look like a string of pearls on the tree (galls are more elongate than Eastern gall rust galls). Pine-pine gall rust, as the name implies, does not need an alternate host.



Leaf and needle diseases- with the wet weather we have had this spring, you can expect to see fungal diseases popping up soon, if you have not seen some already. Here are some of the symptoms and diseases you may be seeing:

Hardwoods

- **Anthracnose** – large brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Leaves will curl and/or shrivel up. Ash, maples, oaks (generally white), etc. are susceptible to this disease. If the disease is severe enough you may get some twig/branch dieback.
- **Leaf blotch** – scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. If on the margin of the leaf, they can also curl up. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.

- **Leaf spot** – small scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.
- **Tar spot** – raised black spots on the leaf. Looks like tar dripped on the leaf. Silver maple very susceptible.
- **Apple scab** – brown blotches on the leaves and possibly the fruit later on.
- **Leaf blight** – new growth will turn black and the shoot can have a “Shepherd’s Crook” shape to it. Young aspen very susceptible.
- **Frost damage** – leaves will be black in color and look somewhat wet or slimy. All hardwoods and conifers are susceptible.

Conifers

- **Diplodia shoot blight** – new growth killed and shoot can have a “shepherd’s crook” shape to it, or dead needles on the branches. Black fruit bodies may be present on the needle or under the needle fascicle. Jack, red, Scotch, and white pines, and Colorado blue spruce are susceptible to this disease. (Can resemble red pine shoot moth damage – check for hollowed out shoots on red pine).
- **Pine needle rust (goldenrod rust)** – cream colored blisters on the needles of red pine seedlings. Normally this disease does not kill the seedlings.
- **Cyclaneusma needlecast** – cream colored blisters on the needles of Scotch pine. Needles will turn brown and drop off.
- **Lophodermium needlecast** – black football shaped fruit bodies on the needle with a slit down the middle. Needles will turn brown and drop off. Scotch and white pines are susceptible.
- **Rhizosphaera needlecast** – needles turn purple in color and have small black fruit bodies in the stomata. Colorado blue spruce very susceptible.
- **Spruce needle drop (Sneed)** – small black fruit bodies on the needles and twigs. Foliage is chlorotic and trees just look bad. It is not known if this is a primary or secondary pathogen.
- **Fir needle rust - cream** colored blisters on the needles of balsam and fraser firs. Needles turn brown and will drop off.
- **Lirula needlecast** – needle discoloration on balsam and fraser firs. Depending on the species of *Lirula*, there can be a single or double row of fruit bodies on the underside of the needle.

Firewood ban on state properties- The DNR is proposing to further restrict firewood on all state properties. As of April 2006, an Emergency Rule prohibits all firewood that originates from outside the state from entering state properties. On July 5, 2006 at 7:00 PM hearings will be held in Wausau, Green Bay and Madison to hear public opinions on a permanent rule that would prohibit firewood from state properties when the firewood has originated from more than 50 miles away from that property. This permanent rule would go into effect in 2007. You can get more information at www.wiparks.net or call the firewood hotline at **1-877-303-WOOD**. More information about the emergency rule and EAB can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives> or www.emeraldashborer.info (*hit your control button and left click your mouse at the same time to get to all internet links*).